

DOBRUSIN & THENNISCH PC

29 W. Lawrence St., Suite 210

Pontiac, MI 48342

Telephone: (248) 292-2920

Facsimile: (248) 292-2910

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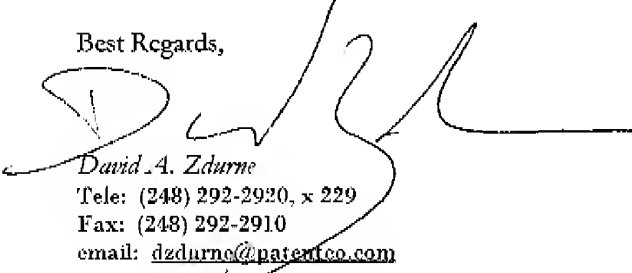
TO:	FROM:
Examiner Michael A. Tolin	David A. Zdurne
COMPANY:	DATE:
USPTO	MARCH 18, 2008
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Application No.: 10/649,139	

☒ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

Examiner Tolin,

Thank you for accepting an in-person interview on March 19, 2008 at 3:30 pm. The agenda of the meeting is to discuss the proposed amendment of Claim 32, included herein. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,


 David A. Zdurne
 Tele: (248) 292-2920, x 229
 Fax: (248) 292-2910
 email: dzdurne@patentco.com

Proposed Amendment Do Not Enter

/M.T./ 3-19-08

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03/18/08
Serial No.: 10/649,139
Docket No. 1001.039c1

Proposed Claim Amendment
For Discussion Purposes Only
Not For Placement in File

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of forming a vibration damping system for a door assembly of an automotive vehicle, the door assembly including an exterior panel structure, the method comprising:

providing a hollowed metal door reinforcement that spans fore-aft across a door and bridges the door assembly at a first and second end, wherein the door reinforcement is a beam having an exposed external surface portion;

providing an expandable vibration damping material including an active polymer formulated in pellet form that is dry to touch and having a diameter that ranges from about 1.0 to about 20 mm, each pellet having an expandable foamable material, at least partially encapsulated in an adhesive shell;

applying, with an extruder and according to an automated process, [[an]] the expandable vibration damping material in a viscoelastic state such that the damping material flows onto the external surface portion and is in bonding contact over at least a portion of the exposed surface portion of the reinforcement prior to expansion, wherein the expandable vibration damping material is maintained in place on the external surface portion of the door reinforcement as the expandable vibration damping material hardens and bonds thereto;

mounting the door reinforcement, with the expandable vibration damping material thereon, to the door assembly such that the door reinforcement bridges a door frame; and

expanding, by exposure to heat, the expandable vibration damping material to contact and adhere to the exterior panel structure including [[the]] a door inner panel, a door outer panel, or both so as to expand and adhesively bond thereto;

wherein the expandable vibration damping material, during expansion thereof, fills a cavity between the door reinforcement and the exterior panel structure for bonding the door reinforcement to the exterior panel structure, thereby providing a walled or expansive structure, which serves as a vibration reducing medium acting to reduce vibration during transport and during and operation of the door assembly;

wherein the expandable vibration damping material remains rigid at temperatures ranging from about -40°C to about 190°C, which are generally encountered by the exterior panel during operation of the vehicle.

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/M.T./ 3-19-08